

Battleboro, Sunday afternoon

Jan^y 18th 1846

Dear friend, At this hour when I should be with you, will I answer yr. letter. In the spirit of the sacred season we have passed together

You speak the truth, when you say "this disappointment is mine, as much as yours." Indeed the anxieties & mental suffering which I underwent with & for you was the cause perhaps, as much as all else, of my breaking down. I confess the prospect looked all but hopeless to me; & the shock was too strong to pass from the mountain of vision into that old fog-
Mannville, you were yourselves always resolute. The very presence of necessity, strong y^r. muscles; but higher than that, was a true heroic devotedness. I cannot tell you how deeply touched I have been by the thro' of the manly firmness, the womanly firmness, the truly human greatness, with wh. you have all met this trial. And to be powerless, struck helpless at such a moment, when I was planning an appeal by a course of lectures single handed to Boston, - to be told that at the very risk of life could I make any effort, - to be actually enveloped in a whirlwind of affectionate remonstrances, & carried away; friend! believe me, it has proved a trial, second to none I have been called to experience. - But that is passed - I do not now see how it could have been otherwise. The other calls upon me I cd. not have disregarded without an utter loss of self respect & honor - And a weak constitution brought the penalty. At the moment when the crisis had come, for wh. I had sacrificed all other plans & prospects, that I not help this great cause of Humanity & Heaven, I was found useless. Well - again I say, it is passed -
Now for the present & future - I say, as I have invariably said to you, to all of our friends, can stand it must; but, if it must fall, then by Heaven, only a louder, stronger call shall go up for Unity & Brotherhood. Not for a moment do I falter in that hope & purpose, & the perfect assurance of an ultimate success. Is that "If" treacherous? Well! I will tell you then as a practical comment upon my words, I have proposed to Parker to take indefinitely the supply of Spring St. & if the Society there prefer it I will settle with them. I hope to begin to preach again in March. Thus you see I mean to stand by you in a twofold sense. It will not be long, I trust, at any rate, before I am met

more among you. Heaven grant health; & I can safely promise you a sterner advocacy
of Unity in Universality, than I have ever yet given. Meanwhile as to the 27th I say to you
"sub rosa" that if I can possibly come I shall. But I want nothing said of it to any one;
for I wish to break no promise, & I must not appear to break them. I do not press me therefore
however faintly. You speak of "living in the center." Here we either do not understand one another or else
we differ in our views. I have, you know, always looked on all the great tendencies of the age as
Provisional - I never criticize the "fragmentary reforms &c" but on the contrary aid them.
They are sacred to me. The motto on the cover of the Poetical was "He does his work - I mine."
And with profoundest awe do I regard the manifest working of the Divine Spirit all around
us. There is no center, no circumference, but a majestic evolving Organization in
wh. Nations, States, Dooms, Persons are the minute members & filaments. There is the
Great Religious Reform, "Church Union through Holiness." Is that fragmentary? No. It is a sublime
inspiration. There is the Great Scientific, Educational, intellectualising movement linking
the civilized world into one Grand Mind, now rapidly passing from youth into manhood.
Glorious too is the promise of true Science the earth round. Finally the Political upheaval of this
era, the slow emerging of this granite range of Equality & Freedom & united with this the intense
humanitarian zeal! Friend, in a spirit of devout hope I am willing if need be to wait.
We have witnessed the birth of the Idea of Unity in variety - so gigantic a Messiah may grow
slowly. I am not rash enough to prophesy when he shall step forth from the manger & the
carpenter's shop & say, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Only let this be the understanding
then, justly nobly among us. Let each follow his highest leading, in defence & tolerance for all
brethren. And it is the understanding - you will trust me. I will you. But my attachment
to Association will always be inclusive not exclusive. Perhaps you will think me wise
as well as reverent, in this, I give & say. And now God bless you, one & all, with purity
& power, with holiness & health, with patience & success. My warmest good
wishes to one and all - My brother in humanity & Christianity.

J. S. Dwight.
Brother Fane.

I am sorry I can find only this
dedicated copy of the book
to many people of "our production"
this copy of a letter to the people
you may like to see. I see in
the Report something about C.B.
Bellingham writing a notice?

W.M.